



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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INTERPRETIVE OPINION

Pursuant to §103-50, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), all buildings and facilities constructed by, or on behalf of the State or any county, shall conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and amendments. In accordance to HRS §103-50 and Chapter 11-217, Hawaii Administrative Rules, the Disability and Communication Access Board has authority to issue interpretive opinions to HRS §103-50 design standards.

Docket: **DCAB 2005-02:** If a projecting object, such as a toilet paper dispenser, is mounted above an accessible grab bar what requirements are there for clearance between the grab bar and the projecting object? How far must the object project to be subject to clearance requirements above a grab bar? Should DCAB 2003-04 be re-assessed in light of this interpretive opinion?

Ruling: For buildings or facilities subject to HRS §103-50,

ADAAG 4.16.6 Dispensers; and 4.26.2 Size and Spacing of Grab Bars and Handrails.

Rescind DCAB 2003-04 and replace with the following ruling: “The space between an accessible grab bar and projecting objects above shall be 12 inches minimum, and the highest operable part of controls, dispensers, receptacles, and operable equipment shall be placed within the applicable accessible reach range. An object, which is not flush with the finish surface of the wall is subject to the clearance requirements above an accessible grab bar.”

Exception: The space between grab bars and shower controls, shower fittings, and other grab bars above shall be permitted to be 1-1/2 inches minimum.

Recommendation: If toilet paper dispensers are installed above the sidewall grab bar, the outlet of the toilet paper dispenser should be 48 inches maximum above the finish floor.

[Rul: 07/05] (Auth and Imp: (HRS §103-50))

If you have any questions or comments regarding this ruling, please call us at 586-8121.

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